

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application:

Appl. No. : 09/475,881 Confirmation No.: 7004  
Applicant : James R. Altendahl, et al.  
Filed : December 30, 1999  
Art Unit : 3621  
Examiner : Firmin Backer  
Attorney Docket No. : E-915  
Customer No. : 00919

Date: October 10, 2003

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please enter this Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified patent application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

**CERTIFICATE OF TELEFAXING:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being telefaxed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at:

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